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SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

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13

Special Edition

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AMATSUKI / 163 / SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

AMATSUKI 13

Contents

Chapter 74: A Cricket On A Red-Painted Bridge 5

Chapter 75: The Rashoumon Gate of Hell 31

Chapter 76: The Moon Beneath The Surface Of The Sea 55

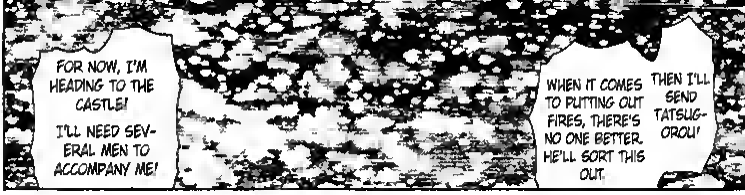
Chapter 77: A Song Of A Thousand Torii Gates 83

Chapter 78: The Mirror Hell 109

Chapter 79: The Mirror Hell (2) 135

Chapter 80: Crystalline Utsugi 159

!!
DO THE OTHER SAMURAI KNOW ABOUT THIS!?
HE'S NOT IN THE INNER CHAMBERS. NOR IS HE IN THE NOBLEMEN'S QUARTERS...!!
IT'S AS WE FEARED!
HIS LORDSHIP THE SHOGUN CAN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE!!
YOU FOOL!!
DON'T LET THEM FIND OUT!!
NO, SIR.
NOT YET...
I'LL HAVE YOU SLICE YOUR OWN GUT OPEN!
THE SHOGUN'S AFFAIRS ARE NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS!! IF THESE RUMORS START TO SPREAD AMONG THE TOWNS PEOPLE...
RUN RUN
RUN
YOSHINOBU-SAMA!!
YES, SIR!
THE BLACK SMOKE HAS COMPLETELY ENVELOPED THE CASTLE DOWN TO THE LOWER FLOORS! PEOPLE ARE PANICKING AS IF THERE'S A FIRE!!!
TCH!
RUN RUN


FOR NOW, I'M HEADING TO THE CASTLE!
I'LL NEED SEVERAL MEN TO ACCOMPANY ME!
WHEN IT COMES TO PUTTING OUT FIRES, THERE'S NO ONE BETTER. HE'LL SORT THIS OUT.
THEN I'LL SEND TATSUGOROU!

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,
WE CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO GO.
SIR, PLEASE WAIT!
WE'VE ALREADY SENT PEOPLE TO INVESTIGATE THE CASTLE.

OF HOW TO STOP THIS INVASION...
WE CHIEF RETAINERS MUST STAY AND THINK...

DAMN IT!!! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE...!?
...!!

HEY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING H...
SFX. 'SLAM'
!
Gasp
COLLAPSE
GAH!
AH...
I'M ALL DONE, TOO!
THIS AREA'S CLEAR.
HM PH.
TOSS

Chapter 74: A Cricket On A Red-Painted Bridge

I'VE PLACED A SEAL AROUND THE AREA
ANYONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE SECRET OPENING WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN
IT'S TOO LATE WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BRAVED THAT BLACK FOG AND GONE IN..?
GETTING THEM OUT IS GOING TO BE A PAIN IN THE ASS.

(NOTE: CRICKETS ARE MOST ACTIVE IN AUTUMN, SO THEY SYMBOLIZE DEATH AND THE TRANSIENCE OF LIFE. LIKE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, THEY'RE OFTEN USED IN JAPANESE POETRY TO REPRESENT THE SHORT BUT MEANINGFUL LIFE OF A SAMURAI. RED BRIDGES ARE SOMETIMES SEEN IN JAPANESE GARDENS, BUT THEY'RE EVEN MORE COMMON IN CHINESE LANDSCAPES. A RED BRIDGE SYMBOLIZES A SACRED PATH, WHICH IS WHY THE TORII GATES AT SHINTO SHRINES ARE SO OFTEN PAINTED RED.)

THE ENTRANCE TO HELL...
WHOA... THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE...

IS EVERYONE, THEN?
SO THIS...

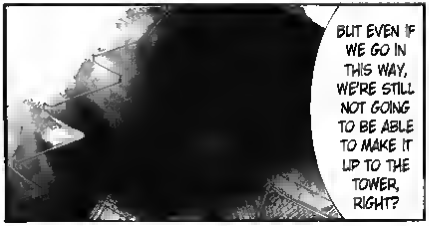
SFX -"WHOOSH"

THOSE WHO TAKE THIS ROUTE WILL BE PASSING THROUGH HELL ITSELF.
IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE WHO GOES IN.

GAH...

TOKI...
YOU CAN WAIT OUTSIDE IF YOU WANT TO!
GA
SP

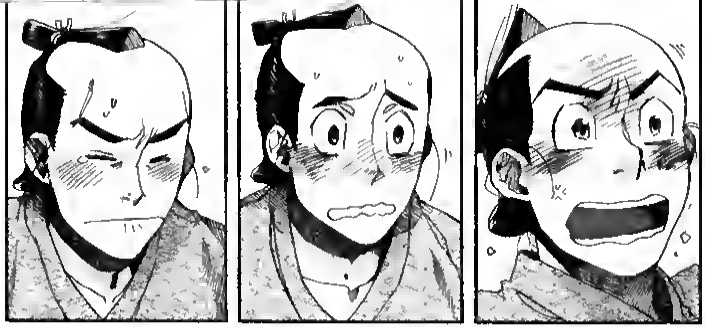
WHAT!?
SPUTTER
Heiha-chi--san?


BUT EVEN IF WE GO IN THIS WAY, WE'RE STILL NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT UP TO THE TOWER, RIGHT?

THAT DARKNESS IS DEEPER THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY COMPREHEND
IF YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH, IT'S POSSIBLE. BUT ONE MISTAKE COULD BE THE END OF YOU.

MANY DIDN'T RETURN AT ALL IT'S HARD TO FIND ONE'S BEARINGS IN THERE, AND EVERYTHING IS PITCH BLACK.
I'VE ALREADY SENT A FEW OF MY DOLLS IN TO SCOUT AROUND.

YOU WILL BE THE ONLY ONES ENTERING THROUGH HERE
THE OTHERS WILL ATTEMPT TO ENTER THROUGH ALTERNATE SECRET ROUTES.
Tustle
SASAKI-SAN!



...THANK YOU!
PLEASE, PLEASE BE CARE-FUL!
UH, THANKS!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP WATCH!

NEHA-CHI-SAA-AAAAH!!
uwaaaaah, I'm going to be praying for you to come back safe!!!!
HUG

WHEE
T..
TO-KIIII IIII
II~~!!

I KNOW I'M KIND OF A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING GUY...
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN REALLY NICE TO ME. THANKS.

UM..
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT COMING EITHER, KON?
shock
!!
I KNOW "SHINONOME" AND "KON" ARE DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
AND WE'RE PROBABLY GOING SOMEPLACE THAT ONLY "SHINONOME" CAN GO
NONE OF THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH "KON'S" LIFE
SO.. IT'S OKAY IF YOU STAY BEHIND
//

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SOMEBODY LIKE YOU.
I WAS KINDA HOPING THAT SOMEONE ELSE WOULD DECIDE FOR ME
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT LEAVING YOU BEHIND...
IF THE OLD YOU HAD HEARD ABOUT THIS, YOU WOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING...
YOU MUST FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FALLING APART INSIDE.
YOU SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING PEOPLE HAVE DRAGGED ME INTO YOUR CRAP FROM THE START.
...HEH.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET RID OF ME THAT EASILY?
WHEN HE CALLS ME "SHINONOME..." I FEEL LIKE WE'RE REALLY FRIENDS.
KON?
IT'S LIKE A SPELL THAT I JUST CAN'T BREAK.

I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO I REALLY AM
I'M GOING TOO.
SO ARE YOU! AND WHO GIVES A FUCK WHAT YOU THINK!?
But Kon you're so weak!
!!
SHUT THE FUCK UP! NO ONE IS GOING TO DIE!
Just don't die before you figure it out, okay?
KON... !!
ALTHOUGH AT THIS POINT, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH HELP I'LL BE.

WHAT?
OH WELL, I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO PROTECT YOU!!

WAHA HA!

But as long as we're together, I'll take goooood care of you!
Uwaaaaaah~!
Hey, are you crying?
Poor thing!
You can't do aaaaany-thing!!

IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO GO?
.. WELL, THAT SETTLES THAT. THEY'LL BOTH BE COMING ALONG.

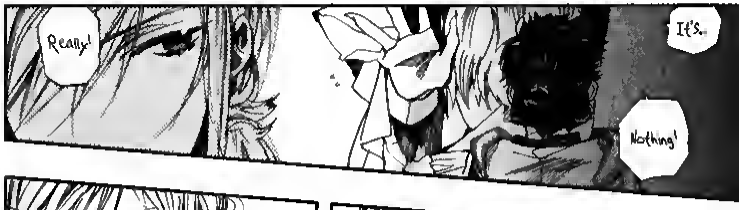
RIKUGOU-DONO WILL FIGHT THE YAKOU...
AND IN ALL LIKELYHOOD, HE WILL BE THE DECIDING FACTOR IN THE BATTLE WITH TEITEN.
..YEAH, BUT I THINK THAT "SHINONOME" IS GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT PIECE IN THIS GAME, TOO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OH, YES WE ALL HAVE A STAKE IN THIS ENDEAVOR.
WE MAY ALL HAVE OUR OWN REASONS, BUT WE SHARE ONE GOAL, RIGHT?
YEAH, WHATEVER. I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYBODY'S PAWN!
Heeh
FROM HERE ON, WE MOVE FORWARD WITH THAT THOUGHT IN MIND.
?
!
AS DO WE.

glare
glare
Oh don't worry

?

..UM.
sweat

UWAH!?
SHOCK
You're being awful quiet, aren't you?
HEY, BIG BIRD! WHAT'S WRONG?


Really!
It's..
Nothing!

Kekeke
JUST LEAVE THEM TO US, BOSS!
OH?
UWO OH?

I'M GOING IN AHEAD, SO WAIT HERE WITH THE HUMANS!
UTSUBI-SHI!! SU-SUTAKE!
!
SFX: *STOMP*

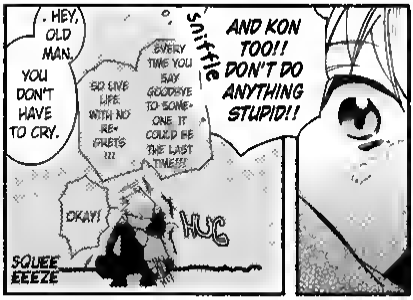
SOMEONE HAS TO SECURE THE ENTRANCE.
THE REST OF YOU CAN FOLLOW US IN LATER.
THERE'S NO POINT IN ALL OF US GETTING KILLED AT ONCE.
...HUH!?
BONTEN!?

I GUESS HE GOT LOST AND TOOK A DIFFERENT ROUTE
MAYBE HE'LL MEET UP WITH US INSIDE.
..WHO KNOWS.
...UM, HEY, WHAT ABOUT TSUYUKUSA? HE'S NOT COMING?
STAB
Sputter
THERE'S ALREADY ENOUGH DEAD WEIGHT ON THIS TEAM,
BUT HE'LL BE BACK.
WHAT !!?
.....
OKAY, YOU GUYS, BE CAREFUL!
WHOOF
...BONTEN?

THERE ARE THINGS I MUST TAKE CARE OF OUT HERE... I CAN'T GO WITH YOU.
RIKUGOU-SAN, I REGRET THAT WE MUST PART WAYS HERE.
I'M NOT USED TO SEEING YOU ACT SO RESERVED, SASAKI-SAN!
... BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S WEIRD!
YEAH, I UNDERSTAND.
TOKI ...
WHAAAAAAAAT!?
Well, I'd love to keep you here with me forever~
But I don't think you'd let me~

SHAMON-SAN...
YOU BE CARE-FUL, OKAY!?
WHAT EVER YOU DO, DON'T DIE!!
SQUEEEZE
HUG
WAH!

HUH?
...BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO COME BACK.


HEY, OLD MAN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY.
SO LIVE LIFE WITH NO REGRETS!!!
EVERY TIME YOU SAY GOODBYE TO SOME-ONE IT COULD BE THE LAST TIME!!!
sniffle
AND KON TOO!! DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID!!
OKAY!
HUG
SQUEE EEEZE

SURE!
?
Omelet? Is that some kind of foreign food?
I MEAN, MAKE ME SOME FRIED RICE, OKAY?
SO MAKE A RICE OMLETTE...
sizzle sizzle
ONLY YOU COULD THINK ABOUT FOOD AT A TIME LIKE THIS
Ha ha~!
OKAY, SO ARE WE READY TO GO NOW?
What!?
I could leave my underwear!? Wait, that's even more perverted!! Chill out, Toh!!
PANIC PANIC
I can't leave Ginshu san's eyepatch behind... I guess I could leave my Hifuna. but then I'd be naked... people would think I'm a pervert!
PANIC PANIC
Ooh, right
Give me a minute, will you?
gasp
OR DO YOU WANT TO EXCHANGE GOOD LUCK CHARMS?
shock

(NOTE: IN JAPAN, IT'S TRADITIONAL TO EXCHANGE POSSESSIONS WITH YOUR FRIENDS IF ONE OF YOU IS GOING ON A LONG TRIP.)

SAVING THE HAIR OF THE DECEASED? THAT'S A LITTLE CREEPY, KON-SAN!
TAKE THIS, OLD MAN. YOU CAN MAKE A GOATEE OUT OF IT OR SOMETHING.
Here
RIP RIP
I HAVE TO HELP TADAJIROU WARN THE TOWNSPEOPLE, SO I CAN'T GO WITH YOU.
BUT ...
YOU START TO FEEL A BIT LIKE FAMILY.
WELL... YOU KIDS MAY BE TROUBLEMAKERS, BUT WHEN YOU EAT RICE FROM THE SAME POT...
WE WILL.
AND KUCHIHA, TOO YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, OKAY?
SO THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A HOME WAITING FOR YOU, GUYS.

GAAAAAAHH!!
HERE, TOKI! I'LL GIVE YOU MY UNDER-WEAR AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM!
!!
TUN
ゴゴゴ
SFX: "WHOOSH"
SFX: "GULP"

SHOCK
GRAAAAR!!
SHOCK
GLARE

QUIT IT, YOU IDIOTS. WE'RE GOING.
OHO~
STAAAAAAAARE

YOU'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT GOOD LUCK CHARMS?
DIDN'T THIS STRING USED TO BELONG TO YOU?
?
... HUH?
HEY, WAIT ...

SFX: *SHIIK*
OKAY!
HERE WE GO, EVERY-ONE!!
SFX: *FWOOSH*
UWAH!
UGH...
GAH!
UGH...

WHOOSH
AH...
I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE
OH? WELL, THIS IS THE PLACE
THIS IS THE GATE OF HELL.

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Presents:

Amatsuki v12 chapter 75

Credits

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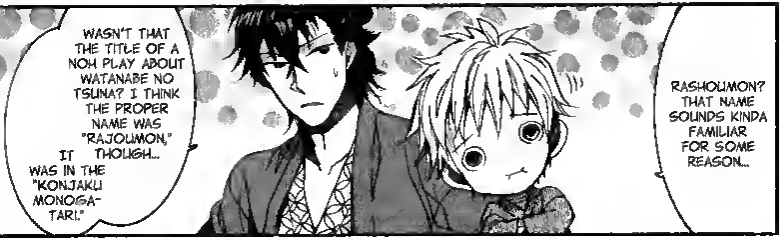
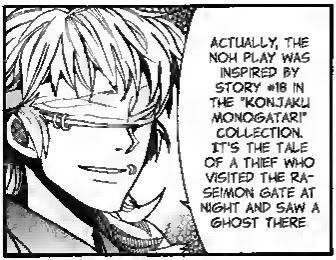
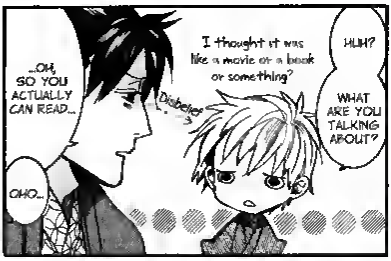
Cleaner: SpiderLeg
Typesetter: Lucid Dreams
Quality Checker: Fathom

CHAPTER 75:
THE RASHOUMON
GATE OF HELL

SFX: WHOOSH
OH MY~
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE RASHOU MON GATE.
HUH?


WASN'T THAT THE TITLE OF A NOH PLAY ABOUT WATANABE NO TSUNA? I THINK THE PROPER NAME WAS "RAJOUMON," THOUGH... IT WAS IN THE "KONJAKU MONOGATARI."
RASHOUMON? THAT NAME SOUNDS KINDA FAMILIAR FOR SOME REASON...


ACTUALLY, THE NOH PLAY WAS INSPIRED BY STORY #18 IN THE "KONJAKU MONOGATARI" COLLECTION. IT'S THE TALE OF A THIEF WHO VISITED THE RASEIMON GATE AT NIGHT AND SAW A GHOST THERE.


...OH, SO YOU ACTUALLY CAN READ...
I thought it was like a movie or a book or something?
Diabolo!
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OHO...

AT NIGHT, THIEVES AND RUFFIANS WOULD GATHER AT THE GATE... BUT DEMONS MADE THEIR HOME THERE, TOO.
DURING THE HEIAN ERA, THE PART OF THE CITY NEAR THE GATE HAD FALLEN INTO DECAY AND BECOME A HAVEN FOR DESPERATE CRIMINALS AND EVIL SPIRITS ALIKE...

SFX: GLANCE
THAT'S THE LEGEND, IN ANY CASE.

SFX. CRASH
GRRR
ズ…
SFX. SCREECH
H…
HIRAME-SAN…!! ARE YOU OKAY!?
SFX. SHOVE
SFX. JUMP
!?

SFX. GASP

SFX. GRAB

SFX. HOWL, CRASH

SFX. BANG
BANG
HEEEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
SFX. SNAP
HMPH.
SUSU-TAKE-SAN!
GO ON!! I'LL COVER YOU GUYS FROM UP HERE!
Wow, thanks!!
How'd he get up there?!

IN OLD GHOST STORIES, IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT DEMONS AND THE LIKE PREFER TO LIVE ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF BUILDINGS...
HIZAME-SAN?
...IT SEEMS THAT WE'LL HAVE TO GO UPSTAIRS

SFX: DRIP, DRIP
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP GOING UNTIL WE REACH THE TOP.

SFX: DRIP

UGH...!
IN 1915, AKUTAGAWA RYUUNOSUKE PUBLISHED AN ANTHOLOGY CALLED "CAMELLIA FLOWERS" WHICH INCLUDED THE STORY "RASHOUMON."
BON-TEN?
STEP
AKUTAGAWA IMAGINED A WORLD WHERE DEMONS AND GHOSTS LIVED ALONGSIDE HUMANS...

IT'S AS I FEARED...
A WORLD WHERE HUMANS WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SURVIVE.
OHO..
SFX: TURNS

OHOHO, WELL SAID.
THOSE WORDS RESOUND WITH ME.
ANYTHING TO SURVIVE?"
SFX: DRIP
.....!!
WHAT!?
BUT WHAT IF SHE'S JUST SOMEONE WHO GOT STUCK IN YAKOU'S FOG!?
I'm a genius!
wiggle
wiggle
SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK SHE'S JUST HERE TO TALK TO US.
WATCH OUT THOSE BASTARDS HAVE THIS WHOLE AREA UNDER THEIR CONTROL

I WON-DER...
DRIP
SOMEHOW I HAD A FEELING THAT YOU'D KNOW
SFX: DRIP
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME, HIZAME
HOW MANY CENTURIES HAS IT BEEN?
OH, BUT
YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG AND BEAU-TIFUL!
BUT I KNOW JUST HOW UGLY YOU'VE BECOME...
...SO IS SHE HUMAN OR NOT..?

You ate my flesh.
Because to stay young forever...
SFX: GRIP
IN ORDER TO LIVE FOREVER, YOU ATE THE FLESH OF A MERMAID!
THAT'S RIGHT.
FROM WHEN YOU THREW YOUR HUMANITY AWAY...
IT'S YOU... FROM BACK THEN ...!!

DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THE TASTE OF MY FLESH?
DO YOU REMEMBER THE FACES OF YOUR FELLOW VILLAGERS AS THEY STARVED TO DEATH?
NO ...!!
...!
COULD YOU EVER REALLY FORGET?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED SINCE THEN?
OH, THE OTHER VILLAGERS ATE THE SAME MEAT, BUT THEY ALL DIED, DIDN'T THEY?
...!!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE ONLY ONE MONSTROUS ENOUGH TO SURVIVE?
AT WHAT POINT DID YOU STOP MOURNING...
AND START CELEBRATING YOUR ETERNAL LIFE?

SFX: STAB
I don't know who you are...

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE VERY DEVOTED TO YOUR "HII-SAMA."
A DOCTOR? I SEE
BUT I'M ALSO HII-SAMA'S FRIEND SO IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE SURE SHE'S NEVER IN PAIN.
GOT IT? I'M A DOCTOR
I WILL RIP YOUR FUCKING TONGUE OUT
BUT IF YOU SPEAK ILL OF HII-SAMA...
SFX: SMIRK
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S PATCHING HER BODY BACK TOGETHER?
IS THAT WHY SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HELD TOGETHER WITH BANDAGES?
!?
I WONDER, WHY ARE YOU SO DEDICATED TO YOUR "HII-SAMA?"
SFX: SMILE
AINEZU!!
NO...
IS IT AFFECTION?

SHE'S JUST AN EXPERIMENT TO YOU, ISN'T SHE?
SFX: STARE
TO FURTHER YOUR STUDY OF MEDICINE, YOU CREATED "THAT THING."
NO WONDER SHE'S SO PRECIOUS TO YOU!
SHE CAN'T DIE, SO YOU CAN EXPERIMENT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT...
MAYBE MY FEELINGS FOR HER ARE SELFISH, AND MAYBE THEY'RE NOT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SO WHAT?
HUH?
SO WHAT?

OUR LOVE GOES BEYOND SIMPLE DESIRE!
SFX. FACEPALM
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I LOVE HER EITHER WAY.
PFF!
SFX. SPLUTTER
I'm gonna be sick
Ahaha... Anezu-san is always so dramatic... what a yandere...
Just shut up
What's wrong with you dorks?
THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A CONFESSION!!
I'm a professional!
WAHA HAHA HAHA!! NOT BAD YOU QUACK DOCTOR!!
SFX. HAHAHA

HEH
I'D SAY THAT YOU'RE MORE LIKE THE GREEK CONCEPT OF A "SIREN..."
THAN THE JAPANESE "MERMAID"...
WESTERN MERMAIDS USE THEIR VOICES TO LURE SAILORS INTO CRASHING THEIR BOATS AGAINST
THEY'RE CRUEL MONSTERS WHO TAKE DELIGHT IN THE SUFFERING OF THEIR VICTIMS.
BUT THEN AGAIN...
IN THAT,
THEY'RE VERY MUCH LIKE HUMANS
~FU~
FUFU~
AHAHA HAHA!!

THAT BY EATING THE FLESH OF HUMANS, I BECAME LIKE A HUMAN MYSELF?
I OWE MY THANKS TO THE YAKOU...
FOR RESURRECTING ME, SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE TO TORMENT HUMANS!
Float
AHAHA, OH MY, YOU'RE AN INTERESTING ONE!
You ate people...!?
Ugh...
SFX. PULL
THEY ARE MY FAVORITE MEAL!
PERHAPS IT'S TRUE...
ONE OF THE YAKOU'S FOLLOWERS, YES.
THEN, YOU'RE...
THE YAKOU ...!?

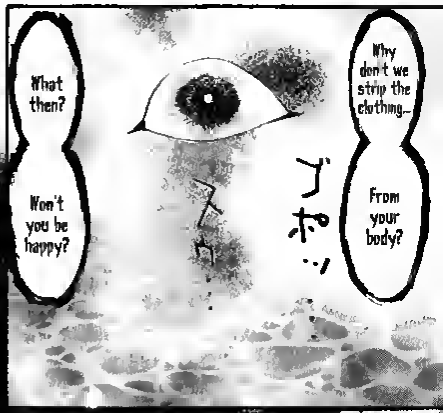
SFX: LUNGE
SFX: ROAR
SFX: MELT
SFX: STRUGGLE

SFX: WHOOSH, SPLASH
WHAT ...!?
SFX: CRASH

RASHOUMON GATE IS SAID TO BE INHABITED BY CRIMINALS AND DEMONS
WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHERED OLD WOMAN WHO PLUCKS THE HAIRS FROM THE HEADS OF THOSE CORPSES?
THE CORPSES OF THE DEAD ARE DUMPED ON ITS UPPER FLOOR.
SFX: FWOOSH
What
Is life?

SFX: BUBBLE X3
WHAT OF THE MAN WHO STEALS THAT WOMAN'S CLOTHING TO SURVIVE?
What is death?
What is evil?
What are humans?
What are demons?
What is life?
SFX: CRACKLE
What are you?"
GASP
Each and every one of you clothed in the trappings of human life...
Such an interesting assortment of creatures...
!?
Lies
Ignorance.
Vanity.
Childishness
Secrecy
Cunning.

SFX. CLICK, CLICK



SFX. BUBBLE, STARE

SFX. BUBBLE, BUBBLE, SNEER

Amatsuki v13 ch 75 Translator Notes

PAGE 3

RAJOUMON GATE WAS THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE TO THE OLD HEIAN-ERA CAPITAL IN KYOTO. THE AREA QUICKLY ACQUIRED A REPUTATION FOR CRIME. CORPSES WERE OFTEN DUMPED THERE, SO THE GATE WAS ALSO SAID TO BE INHABITED BY EVIL SPIRITS. IN THE "KONJAKU MONOGATARI," A COLLECTION OF HEIAN-ERA SHORT STORIES, THE LEGENDARY SAMURAI WATANABE NO TSUNA FIGHTS THE DEMON IBARAKI AT RAJOUMON GATE. WATANABE NO TSUNA WAS A FOLLOWER OF MINAMOTO NO RAIKOU, THE HERO WHO DEFEATED THE GREAT DEMON SHUUTEN DOUJI. YOU'LL NOTICE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THE SHUUTEN DOUJI STORY IN AMATSUKI.

WHILE THE NOH PLAY ABOUT MINAMOTO NO TSUNA IS CALLED "RASHOUMON," KON POINTS OUT THAT THE PROPER NAME OF THE GATE SHOULD BE "RAJOUMON." "RAJOU" MEANS "CITY WALL," SO "RAJOUMON" SIMPLY MEANS THE OUTER GATE OF A CITY. "RAJOUMON" IS WRITTEN WITH THE THREE CHARACTERS FOR "SHURA" (A TYPE OF BUDDHIST GUARDIAN MONSTER), "CASTLE," AND "GATE." "RASHOUMON," THE TITLE OF THE PLAY, IS OFTEN INCORRECTLY WRITTEN WITH SIMILAR-SOUNDING CHARACTER THAT MEANS "LIFE" IN PLACE OF "CASTLE." SO "RASHOUMON" IS "DEMON LIFE GATE," OR "THE GATE OF HELL." WHEN THE AREA AROUND THE GATE STARTED TO FALL INTO DECLINE, THAT WAS THE NICKNAME THE LOCALS GAVE IT.

"RASHOUMON" IS ALSO A SHORT STORY BY THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY WRITER AKUTAGAWA RYUU-NOSUKE, WHO IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF JAPANESE HORROR FICTION. BUT YOU MIGHT BE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE FAMOUS 1950 FILM ADAPTATION BY AKIRA KUROSAWA! THE FILM, WHICH TELLS THE STORY OF A MURDER FROM THE (OFTEN CONFLICTING) PERSPECTIVES OF FOUR CHARACTERS, HAS GIVEN RISE TO THE TERM "RASHOUMON EFFECT." THE RASHOUMON EFFECT SAYS THAT DIFFERENT PEOPLE CAN WITNESS THE EXACT SAME SCENE AND REMEMBER IT DIFFERENTLY, WHICH IS ACTUALLY A PRETTY BIG PROBLEM IN CRIMINAL CASES THAT RELY ON THE TESTIMONY OF MULTIPLE WITNESSES.

HOWEVER, THE FILM ACTUALLY DRAWS MOST OF ITS PLOT FROM DIFFERENT STORY BY AKUTAGAWA, CALLED "IN A GROVE." AKUTAGAWA'S ORIGINAL "RASHOUMON" STORY IS ABOUT A POOR BUT RIGHTEOUS SAMURAI WHO FINDS AN OLD WOMAN STEALING FROM ONE OF THE CORPSES LEFT AT RASHOUMON GATE. SHE SAYS SHE'S ONLY DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY TO SURVIVE, BUT HE INSISTS THAT HE WOULD RATHER STARVE THAN STEAL. THE OLD WOMAN SAYS THAT THE CORPSE SHE'S ROBBING WAS ONCE A DISHONEST MERCHANT WHO SOLD SNAKE MEAT AND CLAIMED IT WAS FISH - SOMETIMES PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO DO DESPICABLE THINGS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE. THE SAMURAI RESPONDS BY BEATING THE OLD WOMAN AND STEALING HER KIMONO, SAYING THAT HE, TOO, WAS ONLY DOING WHAT WAS NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL.

"RASEIMON" IS AN ALTERNATE READING OF "RAJOUMON" - EITHER OF THESE IS THE "CORRECT" NAME OF THE GATE. "RASHOUMON" IS THE INCORRECT, SCARIER-SOUNDING NAME. THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE IS FULL OF ALTERNATE READINGS LIKE THIS, WHICH POETS AND WRITERS OFTEN EXPLOIT TO MAKE OBSCURE PUNS.

Artwork from the manga "Donten ni Warau"

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Amatsuki chapter v13 Ch76

Credits

Translator: Sanada
Cleaner: SpiderLeg
Redraws: AXL, Mei, Ell, Tx93
Typesetter: Aki
Quality Checker: Fathom, Mei, hatsuharupeace

CHAPTER 76:
THE MOON BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE SEA

SFX: CLICK X4
SFX: SHOCK
SFX: STRUGGLE X8
UM
44
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS!?
SO GROOOOOOOSS!!
!?
WHY MUST YOU STRUGGLE SO?
THEY WON'T HURT YOU.
ALL THEY WANT...
WIGGLE
IS TO SEE INTO YOUR SOUL
!?

...BY LAYER...
THAT'S RIGHT... LAYER..
SFX. SNAP
SFX. GASP
FLOAT
UWAH ...!?
FLOAT
FLOAT
FLOAT
SFX FLOAT
YOU'LL BE EXPOSED

WHAT...
...IS THAT?!
SFX. FWOOM
FLOAT
SFX SLIDE
HE HE HE
OH MY...
NOW THIS IS INTER-ESTING!
YOUR SOUL...
...TAKES THE FORM OF A JELLY-FISH!

A LETHARGIC CREATURE THAT FLOATS AIMLESSLY THROUGH THE SEA.
CAN YOU EVEN CALL IT A "LIVING" THING?
WHAT A SOFT, BLOATED, WEAK AND FRAGILE BEING...
THAT'S WHAT YOU TRULY ARE.
SFX: TREMBLE X2
……
!?
GASP
SFX: TREMBLE X3
NO!
NO!
I'M AFRAID!
I'M AFRAID!
NO!
NO!
!?
SFX: FLOP
SFX: TREMBLE X3
I HATE THIS!
I HATE THIS!
……
!?
SFX: SHOCK

THAT'S RIGHT...
THE SHARK ALWAYS GOES FOR THE WEAKEST FISH.
TO ANIMALS LIKE THEM, SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS NOTHING BUT PREY
JUST LOOK AT THEM.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU WANT SO BADLY FOR YOUR FRIENDS TO LIKE YOU?
IT SEEMS AS IF THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO HIDE ALL ALONG.
SFX RIP X2
SFX TWITCH X2
WHAT THE...
WHAT'S IT DOING ...!?
HEY!
PATHETIC. IT'S TRYING TO EAT ITSELF...

SFX. CLUB CLUB
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU... ARE FOOD.
SFX. CLUB
SFX. BUBBLE
YOU HAVE NO OTHER USE TO THEM, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE WEAKEST. THE MOST USELESS.
SFX. CLUB CLUB
PATHETIC!
LET ME GO ...!!
SFX. CLUB
YOUR VERY SOUL IS PITIFUL!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A PATHETIC CREATURE

THINK TO JUDGE US!?
HOW DARE SOME-ONE LIKE YOU...
SFX: CRACKLE
SFX: CRACKLE
YOU WANT TO FIGHT THE YAKOU WE ARE THE YAKOU TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT. WE TOO.. ARE THE PATHETIC CREATURES OF THIS WORLD.
UN-WRIT-TEN PAGES!
WHY WON'T YOU SAVE US TOO.
FROM BACK THEN !?
SO DIF-FER-ENT?
WHAT MAKES US
THE AYA-KASHI ...
NO WAY...
YOU ARE...

SFX: GASP

SFX: SHAKE X3

All of my determination...

NOOOOOO!!

YOU ABANDONED US!

Is ... away layer by layer.

YOU'RE JUST A HYPOCRITE!

NOOOOO!!

I try to cling to strong words and ideals

YOU'RE A COWARD!!

YOU AND TEITEN AND EVERYONE ELSE CAN EAT SHIT!

But I'm really just faking it.

I wish...

I wish...

I wish I ... by ... like they were.

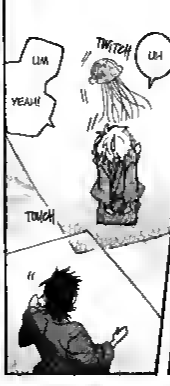
But I'm weak. I wish I could just disappear.

YOU'RE WEAK!

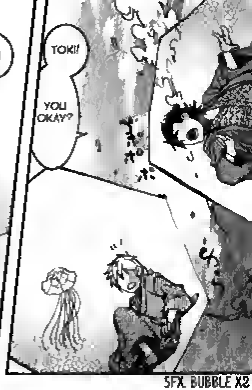
SFX: ROAR

THESE LITTLE FUCKERS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE...
SFX: SLAM
SFX: SHOCK
HOW...
HOW DARE YOU...
Flop
!?
WHAT?!
THEY'D MAKE GOOD PROJECTILE WEAPONS.
SO I FIGURED,
See?
LOOKS LIKE THEY WORKED PRETTY WELL.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO JUDGE US, EITHER
WHAT-EVER
GET OVER IT.
HMFF
HMFF
SFX: HOWL
WIGGLE
OH, YOU MEAN THESE?
ONCE I PULLED THEM OFF, I STARTED THROWING THEM!
HUH?
HOW DID YOU.
WHAT ABOUT THE RUGS...?
KON ...!?
TOKI!! ARE YOU OKAY!?

SFX. EEEEEEEEEEEEEEK

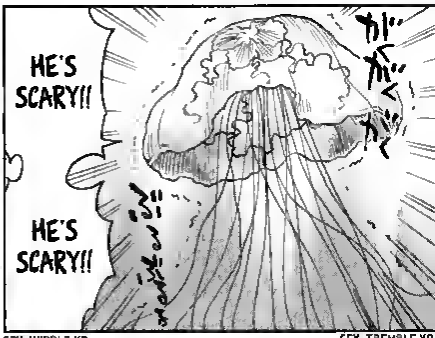


SFX. SHOCK



SFX. BUBBLE X2

SFX. WAAAAAAAAHHH



SFX. WIBBLE X2

SFX. TREMBLE X2

SFX. WAAAAAHHHH

SFX. GAAAAHHH

HEH
SFX. JUMP
IT'S OKAY, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST SCARED.
I CAN'T REALLY BLAME IT.

GULP
... WHAT'S GOT YOU SO WORKED UP, HUH?
GAH!
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE HOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEP-ING?
He's alert.
TWITCH
TAP
I'M FINE, TOO.
YOU'RE FINE.

UWAH...
AHH?
AH?
I'M NOT HERE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE UNWRITTEN WHATEVER
EVERY-THING'S GOING TO BE OKAY
I...
AHH?
I'M NOT PUTTING THOSE KIND OF EXPECT-ATIONS ON YOU.
WE'RE BROS.

HEY, LOOK AT ME
I WANNA DO IT RIGHT THIS TIME.
WE'LL BE FRIENDS AGAIN.
LET'S BE FRIENDS.

NO... MAYBE WE'VE FINALLY...

BECOME FRIENDS FOR REAL.

SFX: SMASH
WAAH!
KON!!
SFX: WOOSH
SFX: BUBBLE X2
SWISH
AFTER ALL, THEY ARE BUT WEAK AYAKASHI.
OR PERHAPS...
SWISH
NOW, LET'S SEE...
WAS IT SIMPLE THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO RESIST [illegible] POWER WITH YOUR TRICKERY...?
IT SEEMS THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE BEFORE THEY COULD DRAW OUT THE TRUE SHAPE OF YOUR SOUL.
WAS IT THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING INSIDE YOU?

INSIDE ME?
NOTH-ING...
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT LIES IN YOUR HEART...
!?
Shock
A HEART THAT'S COM-PLETELY EMPTY...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.
A SOUL OF PURE "NOTHING-NESS."
GASP
MOST PEOPLE HOLD ONTO JOY, OR SADNESS, OR ANGER, BUT NOT YOU.

!!!
YOUR EXISTENCE IS MEANINGLESS, ISN'T IT?
IN OTHER WORDS,
LEAVE HIM ALONE!!
HE'S SUPER SMART AND HE'S REALLY REALLY INTO COOKING!! HE'S...
HE'S...
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT HIS LIFE IS MEANINGLESS!?
COMPARED TO ME HE'S FULL OF LIFE!!
Full of life?
...KINDA LIKE A HOUSE-WIFE!

HOW CAN YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT GIVES SOMEONE'S LIFE MEANING!?
WAH!
OOH!
UWA
AH!!
!?
WHAT?
ME AND KUCHIHA WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITHOUT HIM!!
...NOT BAD FOR SOMEBODY WHO WAS CRYING JUST A MINUTE AGO
AND THAT IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER.
I DON'T GET IT...
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND
WELL DONE, RIKUGOU
WELL...
IT'S SAID THAT THE MIND - THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND, THAT IS - PLAYS TRICKS ON US
RIGHT?

...IS TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!
BUT I'M NOT WEAK!!
SFX: STING
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...
I MIGHT BE A JELLY-FISH ...
SFX: GRIN
SFX: GULP

SFX: STING STING STING
AA AH
GYA AAAA AAAA AAH
SFX: HOWL
POISONOUS JELLYFISH?
HOLY SHIT, YOU IMAGINED ALL THIS?
NO OO
TWITCH
TREMBLE
SFX: SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
DO YOU?
YOU... DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU JUST DID,
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
SFX: TWIST
SFX: SHOCK
FUFU
GA AA HH
SFX: STING X2

GAAH!!
I WON'T DENY THAT
UGH!!
CERTAINLY, THERE UGLINESS WITHIN ME, WITHIN ALL OF US
AAAAHHH!
YOU FOOLISH FISH!
GAAAAH!!
EVEN IF YOU STRIP AWAY OUR CLOTHING AND PLUCK OUT OUR HAIR...
FLOAT
BUT THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO HUMAN BEINGS
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THE EGGS OF FISH AND THE EGGS OF HUMANS LOOK VIRTUALLY THE SAME? WE START OUR LIVES THE SAME WAY
AH!
WE CAN CLOTHE OURSELVES IN NEW GARMENTS FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT
AHHHH!!
EVEN IF OUR NAKED SORROW IS EXPOSED...
AH!!
Destroy me.
Please...
SQUEEZE
WE LOVE OTHERS.
Please...
Don't come near me..
WE PROTECT OTHERS...
Please...
Kill me.
WE LIVE FOR OTHERS...
HIRAME...
Glare

SFX: SLASH SLASH
SFX: HOOOOOOWL
SFX: GAAAAAAHH
...HAS FOR-GOTTEN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN!
HI
HIZA
AND THAT BECOMES THE ARMOR WE WEAR...
AN AYAKASHI WHO TOYS WITH THE HEARTS OF HUMAN BEINGS.
MEE EE EE EE
AROUND OUR HEARTS.

BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU FORGOTTEN YOU?
SFX. BUBBLE X2
OH.
ゴボボ
SFX. BUBBLE X2
THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE PEOPLE THAT I LOVE.
SFX. BUBBLE X2

Amatsuki v13 ch 76 Translator Notes

PAGE 74

LITERALLY, "HE'S GOOD AT SPOILING OTHERS." JAPANESE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ARE SAID TO REVOLVE AROUND THE CONCEPT OF "AMAE," OR "SPOILING" – THE MOTHER SPOILS THE HUSBAND AND KIDS, SO THEY FEEL CLOSELY BONDED TO HER. IT'S ALSO A STYLE OF RELATIONSHIP THAT'S FOUND IN FRIENDSHIPS, WORKPLACES, ETC.

PAGE 80

THE ORIGAMI SHAPE HIZAME IS HOLDING IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE "DIAMOND BASE." BUT THE TRANSLATOR WAS NOT CONFIDENT ABOUT ORIGAMI...

Artwork from the manga "Donten ni Warau"

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Amatsuki chapter v13 Ch77

Credits

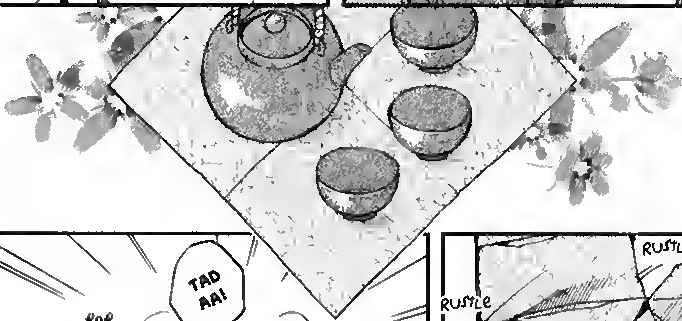
Translator: Sanada
Proof Reader: Ben
Cleaner: SpiderLeg
Typesetter: Mei and AXL
Quality Checker: Ell, Mei

Chapter 77
A Song Of A Thousand Torii Gates

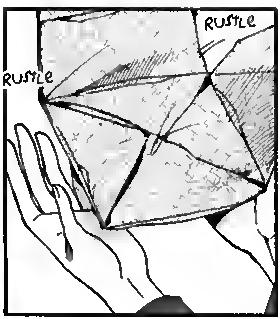
ザァ
P
P
SFX: whoosh
crash
splash
HI SAMA,
I JUST GOT A BIT DIZZY
IF YOU CAN'T GO ON, JUST SAY SO
FORGIVE ME. I'LL BE FINE
ugh
collapse
cough
cough
tap
tap
SFX: Flop
OH MAN...
BUT...!
PLEASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!! YOU MUST KEEP GOING WITHOUT ME!
gasp
HIZA-ME-SAN!?
AWESOME NOW IT DOESN'T STINK ANYMORE!
HAHA, THE WHOLE GATE GOT A GOOD WASHING!
SFX: COUGH X3
Where did that water go? Or that matter did it come from?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE WATER WASHED AWAY THOSE CORPSES...

I AM SOOO TIRED!
AFTER ALL THAT, I CAN'T MOVE!

CAN'T WE REST FOR JUST FIVE MIN-UTES?
YEAH ?
SMILE



TADAA!
POP
WOW!


RUSTLE
RUSTLE

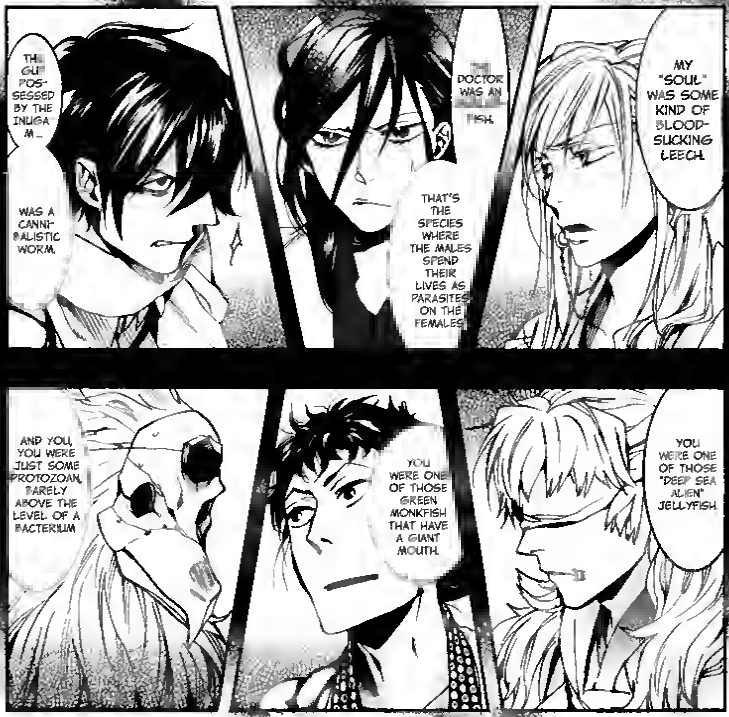
I CAN CREATE A KEKKAI IF I NEED TO STORE PEOPLE OR LARGE OBJECTS, BUT FOR SMALL ITEMS, I JUST USE THIS
OH, I JUST WRAPPED IT UP! SEE, I KEEP IT FOLDED INSIDE UNTIL IT'S NEEDED
WOW YOUR ORIGAMI SURE IS USEFUL!
OHOHO- WELL, I THOUGHT WE COULD USE A LITTLE SNACK.
HUH? HOW DID YOU DO THAT!?
CHAT
CHAT
Wow that's great! I was kinda worried that if we were stuck here too long without food, the demons might eat us...
SUSU TAKE-SAN
SHOCK
OHO-
HUH?
WHAT?
YOU KNOW - YOU'RE KIND OF HOT WHEN YOU'RE -
GAAAAH
THANK YOU, RIKU-GOU-DONO
I KNOW YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I'M AFRAID MY STORY IS A SAD ONE...
THE YEARS HAVE BECOME FOLDED UP LIKE ORIGAMI, BUT THE WOUNDS FROM LONG AGO STILL REMAIN.

That back then...
I was just a foolish girl...
THAT'S SO SAD...
I may be a man now, calm and enlightened,
ME TOO!
I ate it too
GIVE ME SOME!
BUT, YOU KNOW, ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT "WHAT-IFS" ... IS ITS OWN KIND OF CURSE
What could I have done differently?
REALLY!?
I'D RATHER EAT IT THAN STARVE!!
THIS MEAT IS DELICIOUS!!
I often think ...
I'VE SEEN THOSE MEMORIES SO MANY TIMES ...
THAT THEY'VE BECOME ENGRAVED IN MY HEART.
AN ALTERNATIVE TO STARVING TO DEATH ...
IT'S MEAT! WHY NOT EAT IT!?
YOU WANT TO SAVE THAT FISH DEMON!? YOU FOOL!
AND AGAIN...
AGAIN,
YOU WHAT!?
BUT WHEN THE YEARS ARE PULLED BACK, THOSE OLD WOUNDS STILL BLEED.
SOMETIMES I'M ABLE TO FORGET ...

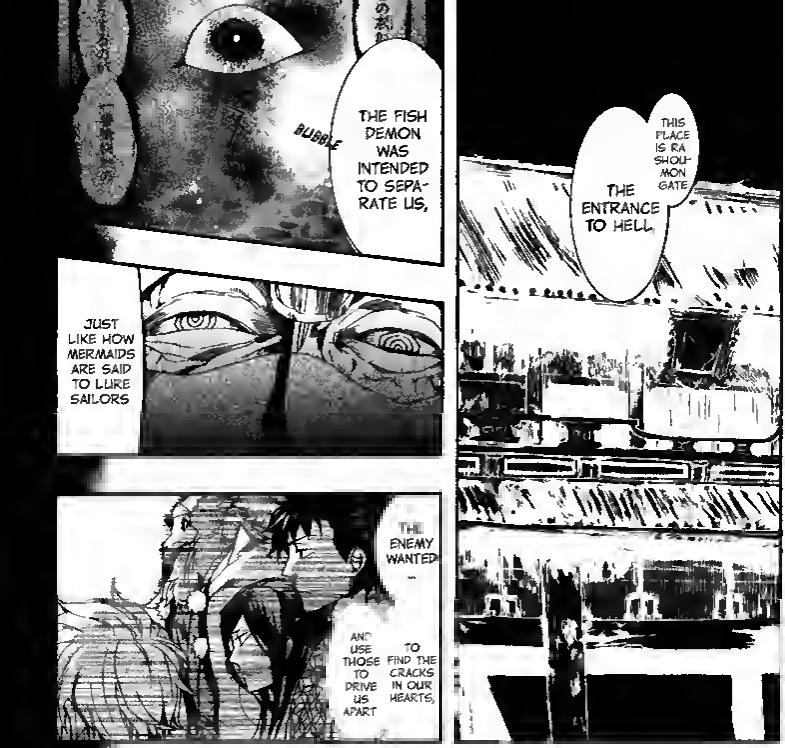
I SURE WISH I COULD HAVE DONE A LOT OF THINGS DIFFERENTLY, TOO...
BUT... I'VE BEEN THINKING...
MAYBE IF WE COULD GO BACK AND DO THINGS OVER, WE WOULDN'T REGRET ANYTHING...
BUT IS IT REALLY SUCH A BAD THING TO HAVE REGRETS?
I HAVE A LOT MORE REGRETS NOW THAN I USED TO HAVE, BUT I THINK I'VE GOTTEN STRONGER, TOO.
I...
I've been so focused ...
On the mistakes I made ...

That I forgot where humans get their strength.
BECAUSE YOU HAVE LOVE!
UH, BRO, SOMETHING HAS BEEN BUGGING ME FOR A WHILE NOW
point
NO!! NO!! AINEZU-SAN DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE SCARY EYES!!!!
eeeeek!
staaaa
aare
SFX: fwoom
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?
wiggle

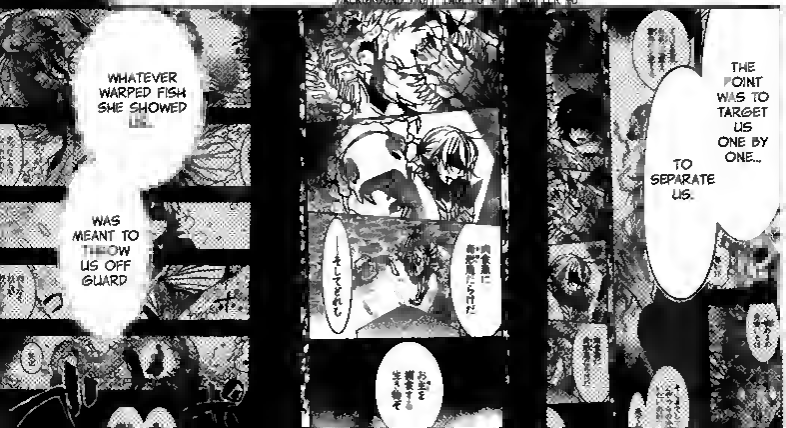
TH
IS
My power..?
MAYBE IT'S STILL HANGING AROUND BECAUSE OF YOUR POWER ?
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THE FISH DEMON'S GHOSTLY POWER SHOULD HAVE FADED BY NOW.
WTF !?
WHY IS IT STILL HERE ?!?
missing
SFX WIGGLE WIGGLE WIGGLE
STOP WIG-GLING !!
SFX WAAAHX3
NOOOO DON'T REMIND ME!!
OOOH, YEAH, FROM BEFORE...
WHYYYYYY!? WHY CAN'T I JUST PUT ALL THOSE HORRORS BEHIND ME???
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME!
NOOOO!! WHY WON'T THIS GROSS THING JUST GO AWAY !!!!?
SFX GRIN
YEAH.
!?
Don't do anything crazy. That thing is you remember?
SHOCK
WAH HHH-HH-HH!!
THAT WAS YOU, RIGHT ?
SHOCK
HEY... DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT REGRETS AREN'T A BAD THING!?


MY "SOUL" WAS SOME KIND OF BLOOD-SUCKING LEECH.
DOCTOR WAS AN FISH.
THAT'S THE SPECIES WHERE THE MALES SPEND THEIR LIVES AS PARASITES ON THE FEMALES!
THE GUY POSSESSED BY THE INUGAMI...
WAS A CANNIBALISTIC WORM.
YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE "DEEP SEA ALIEN" JELLYFISH.
YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE GREEN MONKFISH THAT HAVE A GIANT MOUTH.
AND YOU, YOU WERE JUST SOME PROTOZOAN, BARELY ABOVE THE LEVEL OF A BACTERIUM

WE ALL HAVE SIDES TO OURSELVES THAT WE'RE ASHAMED OF.
BON TEN...
SO JUST CHILL OUT, RIKUGOU.
JUST REMEMBER...

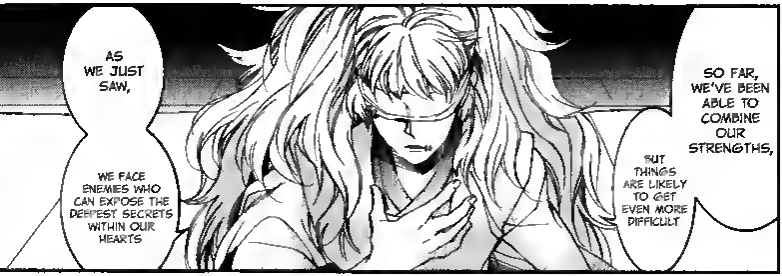

THE FISH DEMON WAS INTENDED TO SEPARATE US,
BUBBLE
JUST LIKE HOW MERMAIDS ARE SAID TO LURE SAILORS
THE ENTRANCE TO HELL
THIS PLACE IS RASHOUMON GATE
THE ENEMY WANTED ...
TO FIND THE CRACKS IN OUR HEARTS,
AND USE THOSE TO DRIVE US APART

BACKGROUND STUFF. PAGES 6 & 7 OF CHAPTER 26

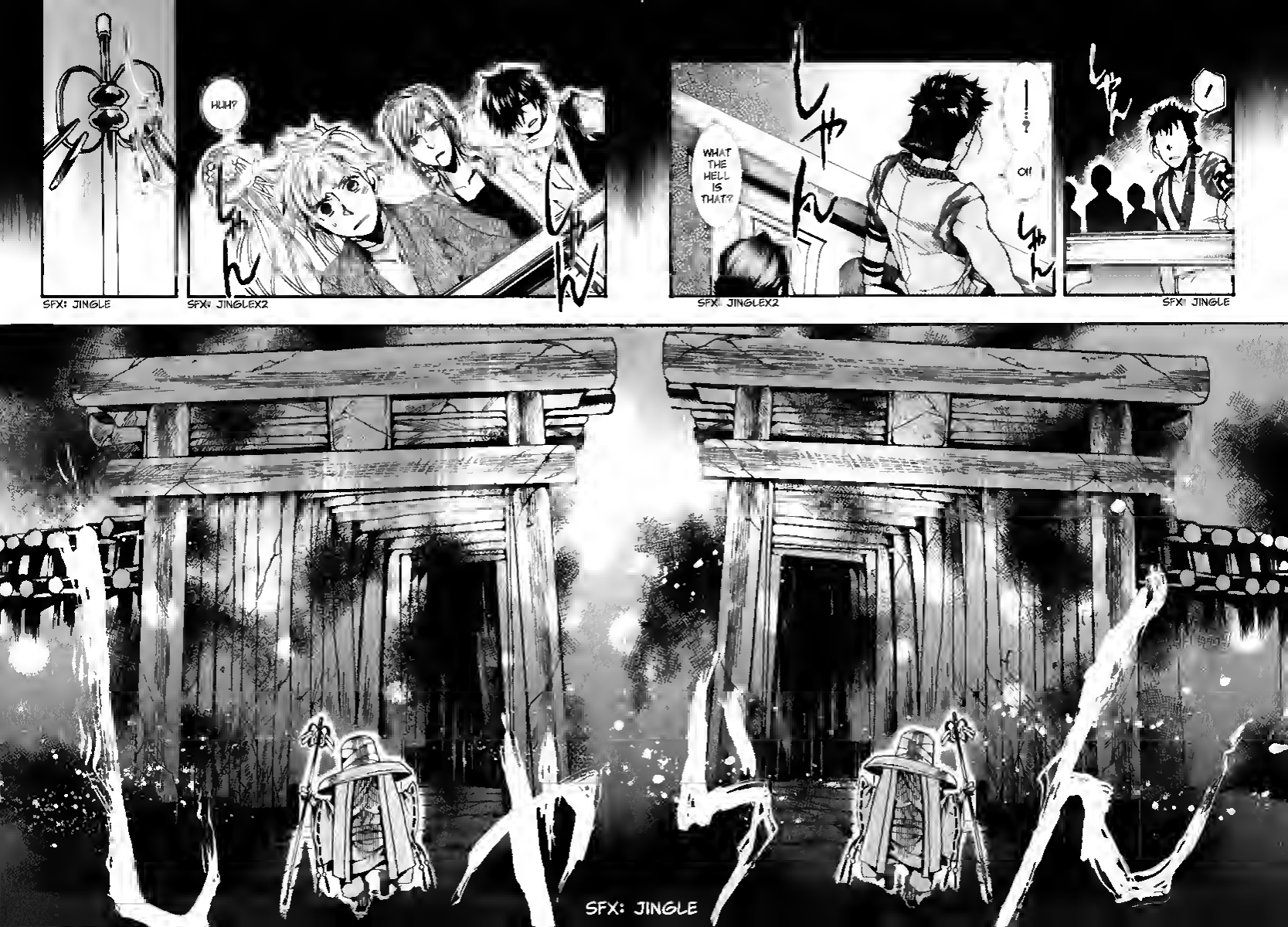


WHICH IS WHY I THINK WE OUGHT TO SPLIT UP FROM HERE ON OUT.
WHAT!?
WAIT A MINUTE!!
IF WE DO THAT THEN WHAT WAS THE POINT OF WORKING TOGETHER ALL THIS TIME!?
WORK-ING TO-GETH-ER?
WHATEVER PRETENSE OF COOPERA-TION WE MIGHT HAVE HAD, IS GOING TO FALL APART AS SOON AS IT'S THREAT-ENED.
NO ONE IS GOING TO RISK THEIR LIVES WITH SOMEONE BY THEIR SIDE, IF THEY DON'T REALLY TRUST THEM
...!
...UNDER ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D BE KICKING YOUR ASS RIGHT NOW!
KAN ZOU ...!?
!
I DON'T REALLY CARE IF THE REST OF YOU DIE.

...IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
BONTEN...!!
!
SFX GLARE


AS WE JUST SAW,
WE FACE ENEMIES WHO CAN EXPOSE THE DEEPEST SECRETS WITHIN OUR HEARTS
SO FAR, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO COMBINE OUR STRENGTHS,
BUT THINGS ARE LIKELY TO GET EVEN MORE DIFFICULT

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE?
!


SFX: JINGLE
HUH?
SFX: JINGLEX2
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
!?
OI!
SFX: JINGLEX2
SFX: JINGLE
SFX: JINGLE

.....He's here.
!
LET ME PASS.
LET ME PASS.
LET ME PASS.
LET ME PASS.
WHAT IS THIS NARROW PATH WAY?
PLEASE LET ME PASS.
THOSE WITHOUT GOOD REASON SHALL NOT PASS.
THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO PEKION SUKAE
BUT..
IF YOU WANT TO RETRIEVE THE REMAINS OF THE DEAD FROM THE YAKOW, COME THIS WAY
SFX: JINGLE
RED ON RED
IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW THOSE BLOODSTAINED PRIESTESSES, COME THIS WAY
SFX: JINGLE

gasp
WE JUST HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS ALL TOGE-THER...
W...
WAIT!!
BOSS, IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID! THEY'RE SPLITTING US UP!
Whoa
squeak
step
squeak
step
step
step
squeak
squeak
step

SFX: grin
!...?!
DON'T FORGET
LITTLE BIRD...
A BIRD IN A CAGE CAN'T FLY.

I'M GOING AFTER THE PRIESTESS!! YOU TAKE THE OTHER PATH!!
BON TEN!?
SFX: DASH
WHA AAAT !? BOSS !?
WH... WHAT ...?
SFX: RUN
MAN ... HE'S SO RECK-LESS...
UTSUB-USHI-SAN?
.....
SFX: RUN

SFX: RUN
TOKI!?
AW MAN, BIG BIRD'S LEAVING US TOO?
うがぁ
WAH AAH HH!!!
COME ON YOU GUYS!
I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE WAIT HERE!!
I'M GOING TO GO TO THOSE TWO AND BRING THEM BACK!!
SFX: GAAAAHHH!!

BUT...
THE OTHER PATH IS DISAPPEARING...
WE SHOULD TAKE THE OTHER PATH BEFORE IT CLOSES!!

.....
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!
SFX: DASH

LET ME PASS.
WHAT IS THIS NATION, ANYWAY?
LET ME PASS.
IS THE PUNISHMENT TO BE DEATH?
THOSE WITHOUT GOOD REASON
SHALL NOT PASS

WAH!?
KON?
TOKI!
GOING IN MIGHT BE EASY.
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME!?
BECAUSE I FIGURED YOU'D START CRYING IF I LEFT YOU ON YOUR OWN!
.....!?
BUT COMING BACK IS FRIGHTENING.
NO WAY...
HUH?
THAT'S...
IT'S FRIGHTENING, BUT...
IT CAN'T BE...

BEEP
YOU MAY PASS, YOU MAY PASS.

T/N from page 16:

THE HAT DEMON IS SINGING THE TRADITIONAL FOLK SONG "TOORYANSE," WHICH IS ABOUT A PARENT SEEKING BLESSINGS FOR THEIR CHILD FROM TENJIN SHRINE. IN ONE COMMON VERSION, THERE ARE TWO VERSES - IN THE SECOND VERSE, THE PARENT RETURNS TO THE SHRINE BECAUSE THEIR CHILD HAS DIED.

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Presents:

Amatsuki chapter v13 Ch78

Credits

Translator: Sanada
Cleaner: Rowa
Redraw p12-13: Tx93
Typesetter: Mei, Jack
Quality Checker: Ell, Mei,

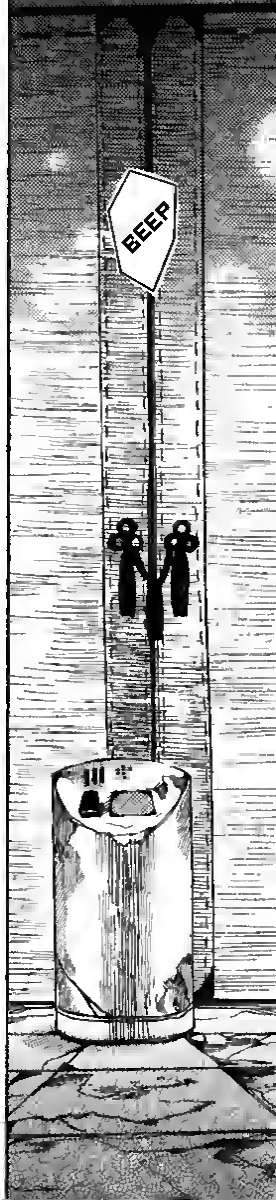
Chapter 78: The Mirror Hell

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

blink
!

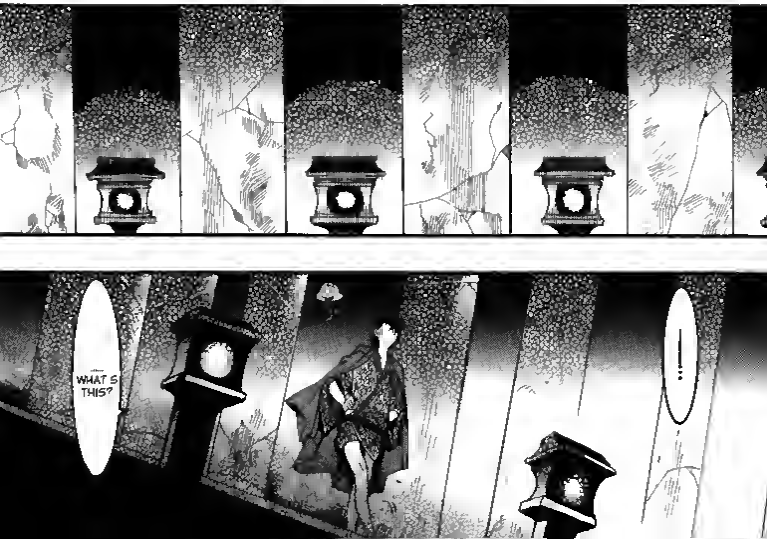
COULD IT BE A TOUCH SCREEN?
SOME KIND OF MACHINE..? WAIT.. IS THAT A SCREEN?

WHAT?
FINGERPRINT..?
MAYBE IT'S A FINGERPRINT SCAN SECURITY SYSTEM..?
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE ONE..
HUH?


BEEP

GAA AAA AH!!
SMACK
TURN
GRAB
WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ...!!?
WA AA AA HH!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL!?
USE YOUR OWN FINGER!!
slide
POKE
HM, I FIGURED IT WOULDN'T WORK...
SFX: FLOP
BUT ...
I'M SCARED !!
trembla
trembla

UM... IN THERE, I GUESS? BONTEN COULD PROBABLY FIGURE OUT HOW TO OPEN IT...
WHERE DO YOU THINK THAT GUY AND THE BIRD WENT?
DO YOU THINK THEY GOT LOST SOMEHOW?
Oh, but with his weird-looking hands, how would he even put his finger inside...?
think
think
BUT WHAT IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS DOING "HERE" OF ALL PLACES...? IT'S REALLY WEIRD...
HMM
MMM
HEY.


WHAT'S THIS?
!

toss
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE MULTIPLE BRANCHES...
grab
HMM. I THOUGHT THERE WAS ONLY ONE PATH?
SFX: PANIC X4
THAT'S JUST PAYBACK!
CHILL OUT!
SFX: SMACK
BUT ISN'T THAT MY "SOUL?" WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET IT BACK!?
HELL IF I KNOW
AHHH THAT JERK!! MR JELLY-FISH!!
ache
LOOKS THAT WAY.
WHAT THE...
DID IT GET SPIT BACK OUT?

I GUESS...
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY IN...
DAMN IT...!!
TIME FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH !!
wiggle
wiggle
SPX PULL X2
OPEN UP STUPID CURTAIN !!
GRR-RR-RR!!
OPEN DAMN IT...!!!
AFTER ALL,
HUH.
I JUST NEED TO PRESS IT HARD ENOUGH! GAAAH!
TCH
WHAT DO WE DO NOW ?
OPEN, YOU PIECE OF CRAP!!

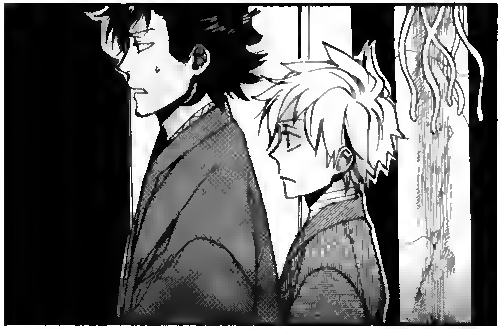
HUH?
BEEP
ENTER NAME.

SFX: GRABS

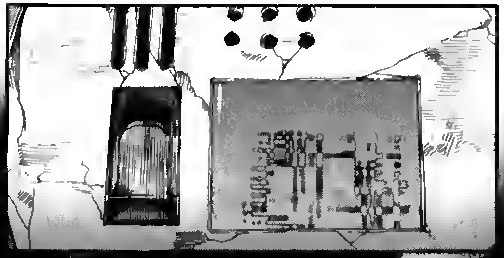
I... I DIDN'T -
WTF!? WHAAAAT!? IT WORKS!? BUT WHY NOW!?
HUH?

MAYBE IT JUST LIKES ME BETTER...?
WHO KNOWS WHY IT DIDN'T WORK BEFORE.
...THE RIGHT HAND?
BEEP
BEEP ENTER NAME
!?
IT TALKED! BUT HOW!?
shock
HEY, TOKI...
SHINON-OME KON!

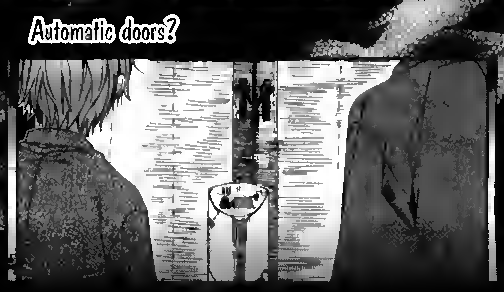
AUTHORIZATION COMPLETE
SFX: SLIDE
PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP
YOU NOW HAVE PERMISSION TO ENTER
.....



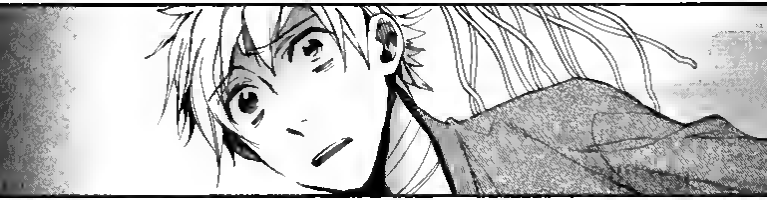
A fingerprint scanner?



Automatic doors?

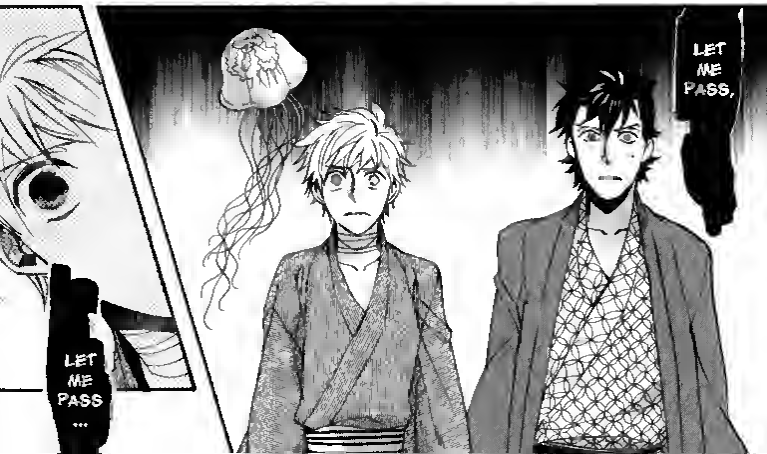


This is weird...



We're still in "Amatsuki," right?

But this...



WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
But this is blurring the lines between the "real world" and "Amatsuki"...
WHAT THE...
WHAT IS THIS NARROW PATH WAY...?
THE "TOORYANSE" SONG IS PLAYED AT CROSSWALKS IN JAPAN. IT'S SUCH A FAMILIAR FOLK SONG THAT SINGING IT LETS PEOPLE KNOW HOW MUCH TIME THEY HAVE LEFT TO CROSS THE STREET. EUROPE AND THE US ARE ALSO STARTING TO USE MUSICAL CROSSWALKS.
SFX: CHATTER X4

?
TOKI?
step
HEY!
TOKI!?
(CROWD NOISE)
WHERE ARE WE..?
(CROWD NOISE)
T..
...
HOME ...?
THIS IS...
HOME!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER_?
KON...
THIS...
IS "HOME ...?"
THIS IS THE "OTHER WORLD?"
We're home.
BUT HOW...!?

OW!!
GAH!?
SFX: CRASH

TOK!
SFX: SHOCK

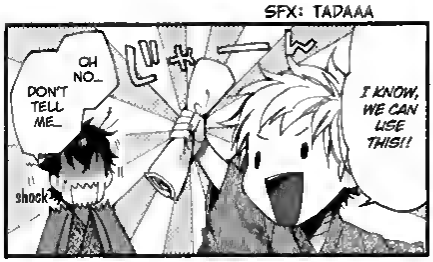
Ohhhh
TOK!?
WTF
!?

WHAT
--?
IT'S A
WALL
--?

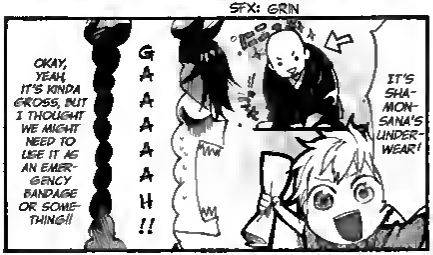
NO_ A
MIRROR?

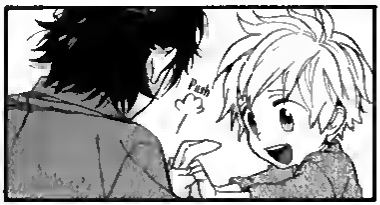
HEY... ARE YOU OKAY?
Um.
Yeah.
It's just...
Uh...
Kon?
Um...
You...
Can see it too
Right?
?
YEAH.
I SEE A BUNCH OF WEIRD, BOXY-LOOKING BUILDINGS IN THE GLASS.
OH...
I GUESS IT WAS JUST SOME KIND OF ILLUSION...
BUT IT FELT REAL, DIDN'T IT?
Huh?
JUST NOW...
YOU LOOKED -
REALLY
HAPPY.
I COULD TELL YOU WANTED TO GO BACK THERE...
RIGHT?

LOOK THAT HAPPY?
DID I REALLY_
I GUESS_
I WAS HAPPY_
RIGHT?
_TOKI?
SO, UH_
HOW MUCH FARTHER DO WE HAVE TO GO?
HUH?
OH, UM_
I DUNNO_ IT'S GETTING KINDA DARK IN HERE_

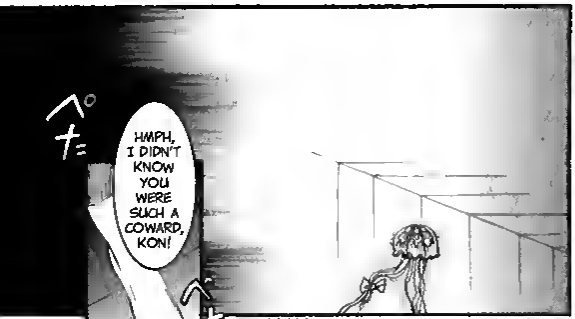

SFX: TADAAA
I KNOW, WE CAN USE THIS!!
OH NO... DON'T TELL ME...
shock

IF WE KEEP GOING, WE MIGHT GET SEPARATED AGAIN.
THERE WERE TWO PATHS, AFTER ALL.
YEAH...
WAIT!


SFX: GRIN
IT'S SHA-MON-SANA'S UNDER-WEAR!
GAAAAAAH!!
OKAY, YEAH, IT'S KINDA GROSS, BUT I THOUGHT WE MIGHT NEED TO USE IT AS AN EMER-GENCY BANDAGE OR SOME-THING!!


Psst

THAT'S WHAT SASAKI-SAN DID!
I JUST NEED TO MAKE LONG STRIPS.
Thank-you-so-much-Sun!
AND TIE THEM TOGET-HER...
SFX: RIP X3

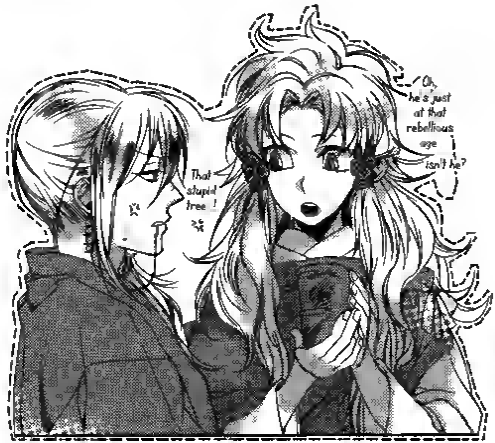

HMPH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SUCH A COWARD, KON!
SFX: STEP STEP

OKAY, NOW LET'S GO!

SFX: STEP
THAT WAS MEAN, YOU KNOW...
SFX: SHOCK
EVEN THE JELLYFISH IS MORE USEFUL THAN YOU ARE!
HMP
HEY!!
WE'RE A GREAT TEAM!!
YOU, ME, AND MR. JELLYFISH ...
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GET RID OF YOU!?
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE SPLIT UP AFTER ALL.
NO WAY!
AHHH, MR. JELLYFISH, ARE YOU OKAY BACK THERE? DON'T WORRY!
SULK
walk
walk
JUST SHUT THE HELL UP.
WHAT'S GOING ON..?
UWA AH...
*****
"GOING FORWARD IS EASY,"
"BUT GOING BACK IS SCARY..."
HEY, THAT DEMON FROM BEFORE... IT WAS SINGING THE "TOORYANSE" SONG...
UGH, YOU ARE SO STUPID
JUST STOP TALKING
UWAH "
A HALL OF MIRRORS...
SOUNDS CREEPY, DOESN'T IT?
THE PICT-URES ...
THEY'RE GONE.
THE WALLS ARE JUST NORMAL MIRRORS NOW.

HUH?
WHAT THE...
THAT'S -
!!!
SFX: SHOCK
YOU'RE SCARING ME ON PURPOSE!!
WAAH
SFX: EEEEEEEEK!
WHO...!?
WHAT...!?

AND ...
OH, TISE-SAN!?
IEMO-CHAI-SAN...
to-
uch
SFX: CRACK


Oh, he's just at that rebellious age isn't he?
That stupid tree !

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Presents:

Amatsuki chapter v13 c79

Credits

Translator: Sanada
Cleaner: catnip
Redrawer p146-147: Senz
Redrawer p148-149: VHb
Typesetter: Mei, Fathom
Quality Checker: Fathom

CHAPTER 79 - THE MIRROR HELL (2)

SFX: CRACK
IS THAT...

!
BONTEN!?
HEY...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SHOULDN'T WE BE THE ONES ASKING YOU THAT!? ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH.
SO YOU MADE IT IN, HUH?
YUP!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW WE DID IT, THOUGH..
SQUEEK
!!
shock

SFX SQUEAK
カラララ
NOT AGAIN...
WHO... IS THAT?
GRIN
shock
YOU'RE USELESS

PA-THETIC!
GIGGLE
PATHETIC!
PATHETIC!
GIGGLE

DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE JUST A PUPPET?
DAMN YOU !!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO IM-PORTANT, BUT...

A SUBSTI-TUTE?
GASP
JUST...

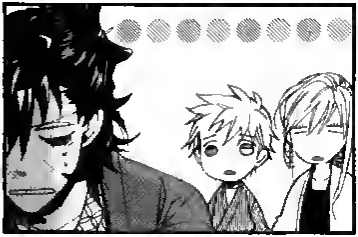
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A NAME.
YOU DON'T EXIST OUTSIDE THIS PLACE.

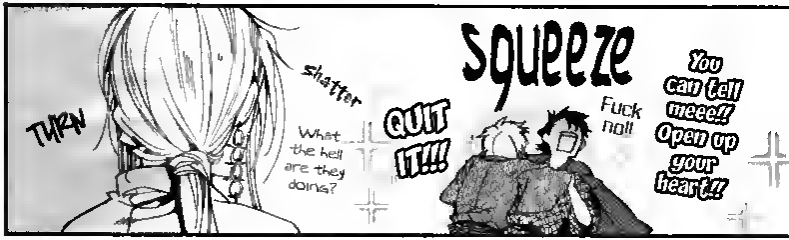
SFX: SMASH
SHUT UP!!!
THERE'S NO ONE...
...WHO NEEDS YOU.

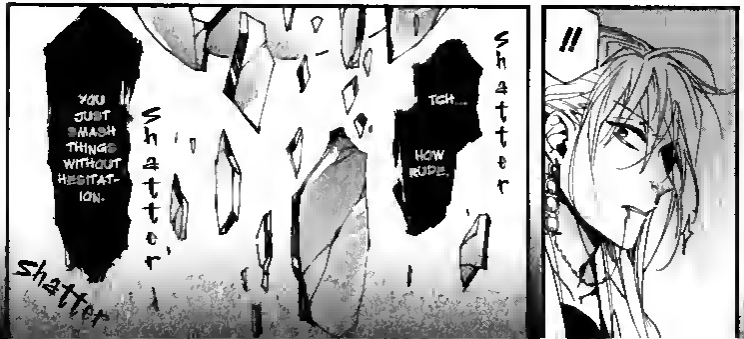
I DON'T LET ANYBODY TELL ME I'M USELESS
NOT EVEN MYSELF
Hmph.
ANNOY-ING
SO FUCK OFF.
KON ...?
OH.
UH, I JUST FELT LIKE PUNCHING SOME-THING.
And it's just ANNOYING so I figured I could wreak it

uh..
Do you have some kind of persecution complex!?

HUH!?
UM... KON, I DON'T THINK HE WAS EVEN TALKING TO YOU.




THEN
shatter
What the hell are they doing?
squeeze
Fuck no!!
QUIT IT!!!
You can tell meee!! Open up your heart!!


shatter
YOU JUST SMASH THINGS WITHOUT HESITATION.
shatter
TCH...
HOW RUDE.
shatter
shatter
!!

SFX: SHATTER, CRASH
OH, YOU HUMANS ARE SO COWARDLY!
OOH, YOU'RE A CLEVER ONE.
AS EXPECTED OF THE WHITE SNAKE'S CHILD.
A MIR-ROR DEMON ...!?
YOU'RE.. A MIRROR DEMON ...!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT YOU GOT MY NAME WRONG
I'M REALLY A "MIRROR OF TRUTH."
SFX: CRACK

AND I REFLECT THE DEPTHS OF HUMAN HEARTS.
I REVEAL THE TRUE FORMS OF DEMONS.
DO THEIR WORDS FRIGHTEN YOU?
HAVE I SHOWN YOU YOUR TRUE SELVES? WHAT HAVE THOSE TRUE SELVES TOLD YOU?
YOU THREE HAVE COME SO FAR... WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN? WHAT HAVE YOU "NOT" SEEN?
A MIRROR HIDES NOTHING.
I HAVE EXAMINED ALL THOSE WHO SERVE THE YAKOU.
I CAN SEE EVERYTHING.
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU.

TCH
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER OF THE YAKOU'S MINIONS.
TRYING TO DRIVE US MAD.
OH, YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?
HOW SAD... YOU NEED A MIRROR TO TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE...
SFX: SNAP
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW!!
SFX: CRASH

WAH!
WHAT'S THIS!?
WE'RE SURROUNDED!!
DON'T MOVE!!
SFX: SLAM
...I SEE THAT YOU ARE UNWILLING TO LISTEN.
THAT'S TOO BAD. BUT I CAN'T MAKE YOU BELIEVE ME.
SFX: CRACKLE X 3
"BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THAT YOUR ENEMY MIGHT ALREADY BE AMONG YOU?
SFX: SHATTER

I CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE IS REALLY YOU!
ALL OF A SUDDEN.
WHERE ARE YOU!?
WAIT..!
WHAT...!?
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I'M RIGHT NEXT TO YOU!
SFX: SLAM
I KNOW BUT
L.
SFX: SHAKE
WE'RE FALLING INTO ITS TRAP!!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE!!
WH...
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
!?
WH...
WHAT!?

SFX: SLIDE

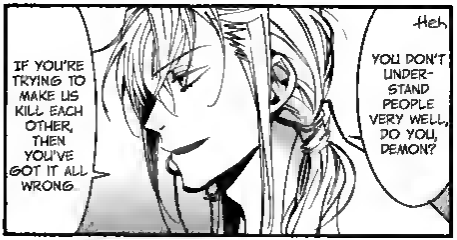
SFX. GRAB

SFX: CRASH
HAHA!
BWA-HAHA!!
DON'T YOU?
YOU THINK YOU'RE IN SOME KIND OF PARALLEL UNIVERSE.
crack
crack
MY WORLD...
HAS BEEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
shatter
BUT ALL THIS TIME...
THE REAL WORLD...

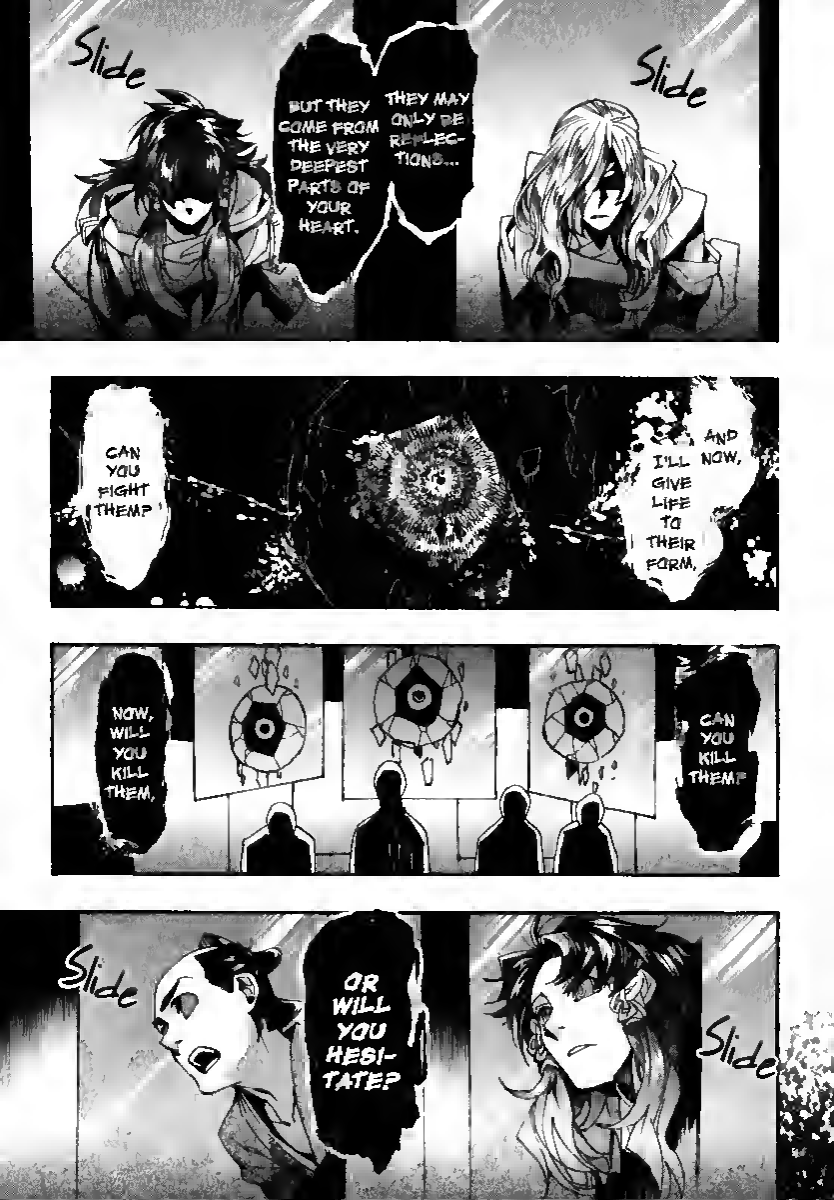
Uh...
Yeah, thanks!
TOKI!
HEY!!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
Crack
Crack
Pant
Pant
Pant
IT'S A GOOD THING THE ENEMY CHOSE SUCH A WEAK FORM.
YEAH. IF ANYONE ELSE HAD APPEARED,
I MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY FELT THREATENED
UM. YOU GUYS...
DID YOU JUST...
...KILL EVIL ME?
NO?
NO?
Well, duh.

THAT GUY DOESN'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF BLOODTHIRST IN HIM

OH, NOT BAD
Gah!
Headbutt


IF YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE US KILL EACH OTHER, THEN YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.
Heh.
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND PEOPLE VERY WELL, DO YOU, DEMON?

I SEE...
THEN WHY DON'T I TRY SOME-THING NEW?
SFX. SLIDE


Slide
BUT THEY COME FROM THE VERY DEEPEST PARTS OF YOUR HEART.
THEY MAY ONLY BE REFLECTIONS...
Slide
CAN YOU FIGHT THEM?
AND I'LL NOW, GIVE LIFE TO THEIR FORM.
NOW, WILL YOU KILL THEM,
CAN YOU KILL THEM?
Slide
OR WILL YOU HESITATE?
Slide

WHOA.
...!!
THIS IS SERIOUSLY GOING TOO FAR!
GASP
!!
.....
SHIT!
HEIWA-CHI!
OLD MAN!
IT'S GOT THEM TOO!?
GASP

SFX: SLIDE
ズル
!?
Kuchiha...

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ...!?
SHIT..
I KNOW THAT BUT..!!
I KNOW THAT!!
THEY'RE JUST FAKES!!
CALM DOWN RIKUGOU!!
NOW...
SHALL WE BEGIN?

Amatsuki v13 ch 79 Translator Notes

PAGE 135

THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER WAS ALSO CALLED "THE MIRROR HELL," BUT IT WAS WRITTEN WITH THE NORMAL KANJI FOR MIRROR, "KAGAMI." THIS CHAPTER'S TITLE IS WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "SUGATA-MI," WHICH IS A FULL-LENGTH MIRROR.

NAMAZU ARE A TYPE OF GIANT CATFISH DEMON THAT'S SAID TO LIVE UNDER THE JAPANESE ISLANDS. WHEN THE DEMON GROWS RESTLESS, IT THRASHES AROUND AND CAUSES AN EARTHQUAKE. IT'S SAID THAT THE WARRIOR GOD TAKEMIKAZUCHI, WHO IS WORSHIPPED AT KASHIMA SHRINE, ONCE DROPPED A GIANT STONE ON THE HEAD OF A RAMPAGING NAMAZU AND QUELLED THE QUAKES. DURING THE EDO PERIOD, PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT DRAWINGS OF THE NAMAZU BEING HELD DOWN BY THE GOD WOULD ACT AS EARTHQUAKE PREVENTION CHARMS. THIS CHAPTER WAS RELEASED SHORTLY AFTER THE TERRIBLE 2011 TOHOKU EARTHQUAKE, SO MANY MANGA ARTISTS CREATED THEIR OWN NAMAZU DRAWINGS AS A TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL.

PAGE 143

IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE, ANY OBJECT THAT EXISTS FOR A HUNDRED YEARS GAINS LIFE, BECOMING A TYPE OF DEMON CALLED A "TSUKUMOGAMI." AN OLD MIRROR BECOMES AN "UNGAIKYOU."

A "SHOUMAKYOU" IS AN ENCHANTED MIRROR THAT CAN BE USED TO REVEAL THE TRUE SHAPE OF DEMONS WHO ARE MASQUERADING AS HUMANS. OFTEN, GODS AND BUDDHAS ARE DEPICTED WEARING THESE MIRRORS AS NECKLACES.

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